



## *Welcome to our Newsletter!*

[AEC Web Site](#)

September 18, 2012

### **Attend the AEC's Next Meeting!**

The Annapolis Environmental Commission's (AEC) meetings are open to the public. We hope you'll join our upcoming discussion about environmental issues facing our city on Wednesday, September 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the third floor conference room at 145 Gorman Street, Annapolis, MD 21401.

### **Habitat for Humanity Rain-Barrels**

Several members of the AEC participated in canvassing of Habitat for Humanity homes to ask residents if they would like a free rain barrel and/or compost bin from the city's Department of Neighborhood and Environmental Programs.

### **Update on the Reserve at Quiet Waters:**

On August 19th, the Board of Appeals held its hearing in which it accepted the final testimony from the developer. The public was not allowed to raise Forest Conservation Act (FCA) issues and there is still no plan to hold a public hearing on the Forest issues, as promised by the Mayor. The problem seems to be that the FCA is part of our city code within in a chapter that otherwise does not deal with Planning and Zoning issues that relate to the environment. This leads to overlap and conflicts in the law which leads to a planned development review process which is less than efficient. No other jurisdiction in Maryland has delegated the enforcement authority for the FCA to an agency outside of their Planning and Zoning department. This bifurcated system appears to be at the root of the problem of enforcing the FCA in our city. Both developers and environmentalists seem to agree that they can live with the state FCA's model code. The Board of Appeals will makes its ruling on the RQW project on September 19, 2012 with no testimony from any experts, the public or the AEC on Forest issues. We are sure that this is not what the Mayor intended by trying to fix the Forest Conservation issues in our city.

### **Update on the Crystal Spring planned development:**

There have been numerous Forest Stand Delineations and a Natural Resources Inventory completed on the site to identify where the developer can build. We appreciate the Mayor leading on this issue by calling for a Natural Resources Inventory as the key starting point for any and all projects in the city that impact our sensitive lands within the city, including important forest, wetlands and other critical areas.

### **Legislative Update - Two Dirty Chesapeake Bay Bills**

Two bills that are making their way through Congress threaten to halt progress and remove Clean Water Act provisions and protections for the Bay. Learn more about these bills at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's [Action Center](#).

### **Boards and Commissions Outreach:**

To improve its outreach, at least one member of the AEC will begin attending the monthly Board of Port Wardens meeting. We intend to expand this outreach to other boards and commissions soon.

### **Update on the Trash-Free Parks Initiative**

The City decided to end trash pickup in many city parks as of Sep. 10. The AEC opposed this policy because it was implemented without public discussion, and because trash and pet waste would likely be left on the ground. The city subsequently reconsidered this decision as "penny wise and pound foolish," and "is working out the details to keep trash cans in the street end parks."

### **Events Calendar**

*Murray Hill Walking Tour of NWF-Certified Habitats - Saturday, September 22, 2012*

The City of Annapolis will host a special walking tour to educate residents on the need to become a Certified Wildlife Community. Residents of the Murray Hill neighborhood will invite wildlife enthusiasts to tour their gardens. The self-guided tour will take place in the Murray Hill neighborhood from 9 a.m. to noon. For more information please see the City's [announcement](#).

*Want to learn how to install a rain barrel? - October 18th and 19th, 2012*

Join Mainstreets Annapolis Partnership's Green Team and AEC Commissioner Rick Kissel on Thursday, October 18, to help prep, and Friday, October 19, to help install. For more information and to sign up, contact the MAP Clean, Safe and Green Team at [info@mainstreetsannapolis.org](mailto:info@mainstreetsannapolis.org).

*Spa Creek Conservancy - Stewardship Workshop & Luncheon - October 25, 2012*

The Spa Creek Conservancy invites you to the Spa Creek Stewardship Workshop & Luncheon featuring Local Seafood. 12-2 p.m. Fish Shack, EPA Chesapeake Bay Program Office, Annapolis City Marina

Did you know that Sustainable Annapolis is on Facebook?  
Follow [this link](#).

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***September 19, 7:00 p.m.  
145 Gorman Street, 3rd floor conference room***

*The AEC is an independent board consisting of nine City residents who are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Aldermen to be concerned with the protection and improvement of the natural health and welfare of the environment.  
The views portrayed by the AEC are not necessarily shared by the City of Annapolis, staff or elected officials.*

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